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PAGE 01 STATE 242397

62

ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:WFALKNER;BWL

APPROVED BY ARA - WLUERS

ARA/ECP:JO'MAHONY

ARA/LA/NC:FJDEVINE

USDA/RFELTNER (SUBSTANCE)

DOT:HLANDBERG (SUBSTANC')

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRN, CO

SUBJECT: DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REFERENCE: BOGOTA 9752

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26 BILL LUERS PAID A COURTESY VISIT ON GOC MINISTERS PARDO AND SALCEDO, THE DAY FOLLOWING THEIR SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH SECRETARIES BUTZ AND COLEMAN AT WHICH THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY AND FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED. SEVERAL DETAILS WERE COVERED REGARDING THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP'S WORK IN FORWARDING THESE PROJECTS DURING THE COURTESY CALL.

2. LUERS DESCRIBED OUR PROPOSAL AS LOOKING TO A CONSULTA-
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PAGE 02 STATE 242397

TIVE GROUP (CG) AT THE POLICY LEVEL, CONSISTING OF AN

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CHAIRING, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FROM STATE AND TRANSPORTATION PARTICIPATING. WE ANTICIPATED THEIR SIDE WOULD CONSIST OF COMPARABLY RANKED COLOMBIANS, AT LEAST FROM THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS. WE INTENDED TO HAVE THE THREE USG DEPARTMENTS PRESENT SINCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL THREE DECIDE ON THE USG POSITION AND SHARE COMPLETELY IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS. WE VIEWED THE

NEXT PHASE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CG THEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE COSTS, PROBLEMS AND FUTURE COURSE OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO COMPLETION OF THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY.

3. THE MINISTERS INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. PARDO, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THAT THE SENIOR REVIEW GROUP (SRG) OF THE JOINT US-COLOMBIA FOOT AND MOUTH (FMD) CONTROL PROGRAM SHOULD MEET FIRST. THE SRG COULD THEN FOLD INTO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL DETAILS AND ASSISTANCE.

4. WE FINISHED BY OFFERING TO PROVIDE YOU WITHIN TWO WEEKS A LIST OF US PARTICIPANTS, A TIMEFRAME, A SCOPE OF WORK AND A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL AGENDA. BOTH MINISTERS WELCOMED THE APPROACH AND AGREED THAT YOU SHOULD BE THE CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST CG MEETING.

5. US PARTICIPANTS: THE US SIDE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP IS ENVISIONED TO INCLUDE: A) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM LUERS AND FSO WILLIAM FALKNER, STATE; B) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD FELTNER (ALSO US DELEGATION HEAD TO THE SRG MEETINGS) AND DR. FRANCIS MULHERNE, APHIS ADMINISTRATOR, USDA; AND C) FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR NORBERT TIEMANN AND ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR HARRY LINDBERG, DOT.

6. TIMEFRAME: USDA HAS ACCEPTED PARDO'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SRG SHOULD MEET PRIOR TO THE CG. THE SRG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 242397

WILL NEED APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY FOR ITS BUSINESS AND WE RECOMMEND THE CG MEET THE FOLLOWING DAY IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE TIME AWAY FROM WASHINGTON OF US PRINCIPALS. AS IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GET THE CG MEMBERS TO COLOMBIA IN TIME FOR THE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED SRG MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, THE SRG MEETING MUST BE POSTPONED. THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIMEFRAME FOR BOTH THE SRG AND CG MEETINGS IS DECEMBER 11 AND 12, WHICH WE HOPE

WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COLOMBIANS.

7. SCOPE: WE DO NOT SEE THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP BECOMING INVOLVED IN DETAILS WHICH TECHNICAL LEVEL OFFICIALS CAN WORK OUT. WE DO SEE THE CG, HOWEVER, AS USEFUL IN GIVING EMPHASIS AND DIRECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE-MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS OF THE COOPERATIVE FMD AND HIGHWAY PROGRAMS. THE CG COULD SUGGEST NEW MODES OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON FMD; IT COULD EXPLORE FINANCING PROBLEMS OF FMD CONTROL AND THE HIGHWAY, IF ANY;

INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS TO OTHER POLICY LEVEL AUTHORITIES, E.G. FINANCE DEPARTMENTS, AS WOULD BE USEFUL. IT CAN PROVIDE A FORUM TO AIR PROBLEMS IN EITHER PROJECT AND IT SHOULD RELATE FMD PROGRESS TO INITIATION OF HIGHWAY WORK.

8. AGENDA: WE PROPOSE THE CG MEETING DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PROBLEM AREAS: A) ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, B) FINANCE, AND C) FUTURE COOPERATION. A. ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION: 1. USDA AND MINAG CAN BRIEFLY DISCUSS THE LATEST FINDINGS OF THE SRG, THE NEXT WORK PROGRAM AND USDA'S NEW LIST OF ESSENTIAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS REQUIRED TO ADEQUATELY CONTROL FMD. USDA WILL RAISE USDA-ICA IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS. 2. DOT AND MOP HAVE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WHICH CAN BE DISCUSSED. THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE HIGHWAY PROJECT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUIT AGAINST DOT SHOULD BE DESCRIBED. WORK PLANS FOR 1976 CAN BE TOUCHED ON. B. FINANCE: 1. USDA AND MINAG SHOULD DISCUSS PRESENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THE USDA-ICA PROGRAM IS HAVING. WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OTHER GOC EFFORTS TO CONTROL FMD, SUCH AS THE IDB LOAN PROJECT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 242397

2. COLOMBIAN AND US FUNDING PLANS FOR AND CONSTRAINTS ON HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE DESCRIBED, INCLUDING THE COST EFFECT OF INFLATION BROUGHT ON BY DELAY, AND LONGTERM FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS. C. FUTURE COOPERATION (AREAS TO BE EXPLORED SEEMINGLY ARE BEST EXPRESSED AS QUESTIONS): 1. IS A NEW USDA-MINAG ADMINISTRATIVE-MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PRESENT FMD PROGRAM? WOULD LONGTERM USDA-MINAG COOPERATION ON FMD BE USEFUL AND SHOULD CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO A LONGTERM AGREEMENT ON FMD CONTROLS? 2. IN RELATING PROGRESS ON FMD CONTROL TO INITIATION OF DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, WOULD ANOTHER CG MEETING BE USEFUL? WHERE AND WHEN?

9. FYI: USDA BELIEVES IT TECHNICALLY MAY BE POSSIBLE

TO GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO HIGHWAY WORK BY JANUARY 1977,
BUT THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN ONLY IF MAJOR CHANGES ARE MADE
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN USDA AND THE
MINAG. USDA WILL RAISE THE CONCEPT OF A BINATIONAL
COMMISSION TO REPLACE THE ICA PROGRAM. USDA ALSO WANTS
TO DISCUSS CONTINUED US-GOC COOPERATION ON FMD BEYOND
THE PRESENT FIVE YEAR AGREEMENT AS WELL AS US CONTRIBU-
TIONS TO SUCH AN EFFORT. END FYI.

10. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE ABOVE, PLEASE ATTEMPT TO
OBTAIN A GOC COMMITMENT FOR A MEETING OF THE CG IN EARLY
DECEMBER. IN ADDITION, DR. BEASLEY SHOULD INFORM ICA
OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SRG OCTOBER 15 MEETING. KISSINGER

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